

REMARKS

[0002] Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of all of the claims of the application. The status of the claims is as follows:

- Claims 1-12, 15-18, 48-59, 61-63, 84-87, 93 and 94 are currently pending; and
- Claims 1, 7, 48-50, 52, 53, 84 and 86 are amended herein.

[0003] Support for the amendments to claims 1, 48 and 84 is found in the specification at least at page 12, lines 18-30.

Cited Documents

[0004] The following documents have been applied to reject one or more claims of the Application:

- Drag Thing: Hiner, "DragThing v4.3", retrieved on 4-6-2007 at <<<http://www.applelinks.com/reviews/dragthing-v4.shtml>>>, June 14, 2002, 4 pages
- Westerman: Westerman, U.S. Patent No. 6,404,443

Claims 1-12, 15-18, 48-59, 61-63, 84-87, 93 and 94 Are Non-Obvious Over

Drag Thing in view of Westerman

[0005] Claims 1-12, 15-18, 48-59, 61-63, 84-87, 93 and 94 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Drag Thing in view of Westerman. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. Furthermore, in light of the amendments herein, Applicant respectfully submits that the above rejection is moot.

Independent claims 1, 48 and 84

[0006] The Office Action alleges that Drag Thing discloses “grouping the first and the other than first graphic controls on the second portion of the display according to the obtained indication(DT2, page 17 paragraph 2 and page 21 par 4; wherein the user can organize the arrangement of groups and content by means of dragging).” (Office Action 01/25/2010 at page 6).

[0007] Drag Thing is “the original dock designed to tidy up...Macintosh desktop.” (Dragthing at <http://www.dragthing.com/english/about.html>).



[0008] Without conceding the propriety of the rejection and solely for the interest of moving the prosecution forward, Applicant herein amends claim 1 to recite (in part):

receiving a single user action to act upon the group; and
performing, upon the receiving, the single user action to each of the software applications in the group substantially simultaneously without a user applying a sequence of user actions to each of the software applications individually in the group

[0009] The above features are not disclosed, taught or suggested in Drag Thing in view of Westerman (assuming for the sake of arguments that these references can even been combined).

[0010] Drag Thing does not disclose or suggest the above feature. Drag Thing, according to their website, is a docking system for Macintosh and allows for multiple docks with user-specified settings such as color, texture and shape. (See also the Drag Thing picture above). However, Drag Thing is completely silent with respect to the above features. In particular, the feature “performing, upon the receiving, the single user action to each of the software applications in the group substantially simultaneously without a user applying a sequence of user actions to each of the software applications individually in the group,” as recited in amended claim 1, is missing in Drag Thing.

[0011] Westerman fails to remedy the deficiency of Drag Thing. Westerman describes a user interface for handling a group of screen objects. The interface establishes a viewport in a portion of the screen. The interface allows the user to define a set of planes, and to assign each object to one of the planes. A tab identifying each plane is always visible, and is used to select one plane at a time. (See Westerman, Abstract).

[0012] Westerman in Fig 7 discloses a flowchart illustrating steps for using a graphical interface for managing a plurality of screen objects found on a full area of a screen.

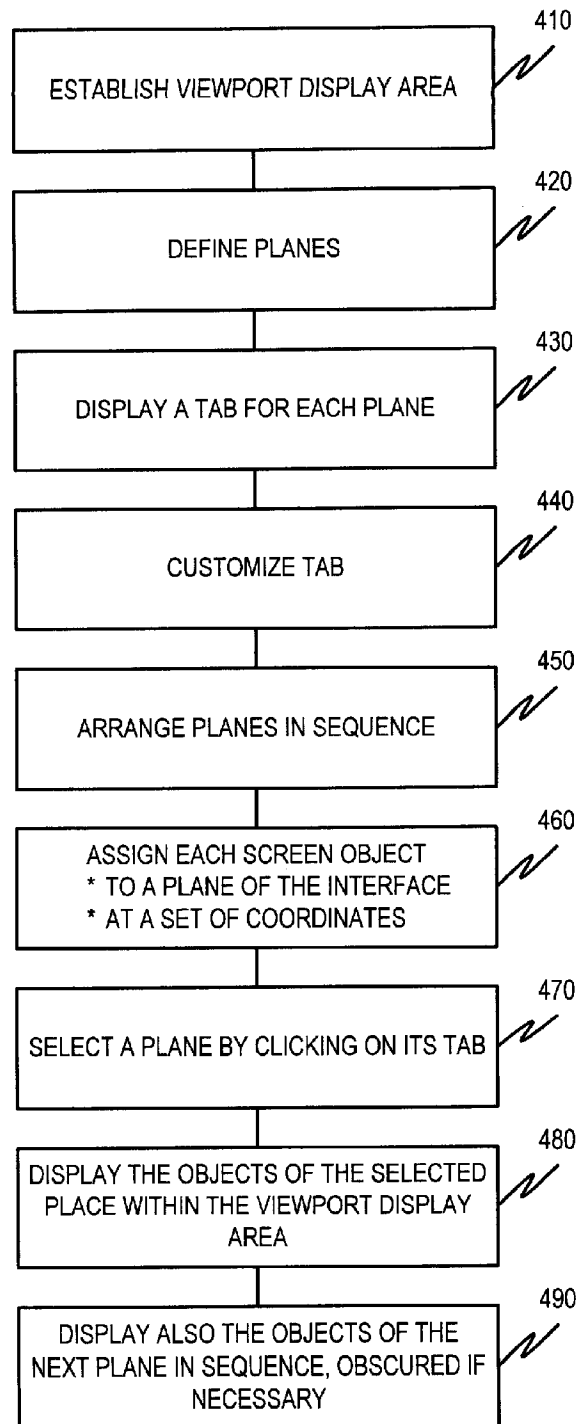


FIG. 7

[0013] However, Westerman also does not disclose or suggest the following features recited in amended claim 1:

- receiving a single user action to act upon the group
- performing, upon the receiving, the single user action to each of the software applications in the group substantially simultaneously without a user applying a sequence of user actions to each of the software applications individually in the group

[0014] Thus, independent claim 1, as amended, is patentable over Drag Thing in view of Westerman.

[0015] Independent claim 48, as amended, recites (in part):

an execution component for performing the user action to each software application in the group of software applications substantially simultaneously without a user applying a sequence of user actions to each software application individually in the group of software applications

[0016] Independent claim 84, as amended, recites (in part):

means for executing a single user action upon the control tile group, where the act of executing comprises performing the single user action to each of the software applications in the software application group substantially simultaneously without a user applying a sequence of user actions to each of the software applications in the software application group

[0017] Accordingly, independent claims 48 and 84 are also patentable over Thing in view of Westerman for at least the reasons provided above with regard to claim 1.

Dependent Claims 2-12, 15-18, 49-59, 61-63, 85-87, 93 and 94

[0018] Claims 2-12, 15-18, 49-59, 61-63, 85-87, 93 and 94 ultimately depend from independent claim 1, 48 and 84 respectively. As discussed above, each of claims 1, 48 and 84 is patentable over the cited documents. Therefore, claims 2-12, 15-18, 49-59,

61-63, 85-87, 93 and 94 are also patentable over the cited documents of record for at least their dependency from a patentable base claim. These claims may also be patentable for the additional features that each recites.

Conclusion

[0019] For at least the foregoing reasons, all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and prompt issuance of the application.

[0020] If any issues remain that would prevent allowance of this application, Applicant requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned representative before issuing a subsequent Action.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lee & Hayes, PLLC
Representative for Applicant

/Patrick D. S. Reed/

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Patrick D. S. Reed
(patrick@leehayes.com ; 509-944-4752)
Registration No. 61227